

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 14, 2003, 1) the drawings were objected to as requiring a legend such as --Prior Art-- for which old is being illustrated; 2) specification is objected to because of informalities; 3) "claims 1-59 were rejected under 35 USC §112 first paragraph because the specification, while being enabling for electroplating, does not reasonably provide enablement for electroless plating. The specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make or use the invention commensurate in scope with these claims." (emphasis in original); 4) claims 1-59 were also rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention; and 5) claims 1-59 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,534,116.

Applicant thanks the Examiner in the examination of the present application.

Applicant submits formal drawings and includes a legend --Prior Art-- to Figures 2a, 2b, 2c, 3 and 5. It is requested that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn and the drawings be approved as formal drawings.

Applicant amends the Title of the Invention.

Applicant makes amendment to the specification as indicated. It is respectively requested that the objection the disclosure be withdrawn.

Applicant amends independent claims 1 and 30 to address the Examiner rejection under 35 USC §112 first paragraph. Specifically, applicant amends claims 1 and 30 to further recite applying a voltage between an electrode and the conductive top surface of the workpiece. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraws the under 35 USC §112 first paragraph rejection.

Applicant amends the claims to address the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection which include the comments indicated by the Examiner. It is respectively requested that the Examiner withdraws the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection.

Finally, applicant includes a terminal disclaimer to obviate the nonstatutory double patenting rejection based on a judicially created doctrine. A fee under 35 USC 1.20(d) is enclosed. Accordingly, applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the Double Patenting rejection.

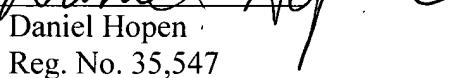
Conclusion

Applicant has addressed the concerns of the Examiner. Formal drawings with "Prior Art" legends are enclosed for approval. The Title of the Invention is amended. The specification and claims are amended to address the objections and rejections of the Examiner. A terminal disclaimer and fee are enclosed to obviate the double patenting rejection. For these reasons, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims. The claims are patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed.

If any matters can be resolved by telephone, applicant requests that the Patent and Trademark Office call the applicant at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted

By:



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